

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16400

LONDON FOR MARITIME ATTACHE FOR ASST SECRETARY BLACKWELL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR, US, EEWT, EWWT

SUBJECT: US-USSR MARITIME REVIEW SESSION

SUMMARY: DURING REGULAR REVIEW OF US-USSR MARITIME AGREEMENT CONDUCTED JULY 7-13 IN MOSCOW, SOVIETS OFFERED \$18.00 RATE FOR 1979 GRAIN CARRIAGE BUT WOULD NOT GO HIGHER. THEY INDICATED INTEREST IN RESOLVING OVERAGE INSURANCE PROBLEM BY TENTATIVE ACCEPTANCE OF US PROPOSAL, AD REFERENDUM. DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES SIGNED AGREEMENT FINALIZING ACCOUNTING YEAR 1977. AFTER AVERIN RAISED SUBJECT OF BROAD MARITIME CONSULTATIONS IN GENERAL TERMS, BLACKWELL INDICATED THAT WE WOULD NEED SPECIFIC PROPOSALS BEFORE RESPONDING. END SUMMARY.

1. US DELEGATION HEADED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE BLACKWELL MET JULY 7-13 IN USSR WITH SOVIET TEAM HEADED BY IGOR AVERIN, CHIEF OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOVIET MINISTRY OF THE MARITIME FLEET (MORFLOT). MEETING WAS FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING
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IMPLEMENTATION OF MARITIME AGREEMENT. DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES (BLACKWELL AND AVERIN) SIGNED TWO MEMORANDA ON FINAL DAY, ONE SETTLING QUESTION OF LINER CARGO OF THREE SHIPMENTS OF BAGGED RICE FROM U.S. TO USSR AND THE OTHER FINALIZING BULK CARGO ACCOUNTING FOR 1977. THE U.S. SIDE ALSO AGREED TO LOOK INTO TWO ITEMS RAISED BY THE SOVIETS CONCERNING CONSULAR AND ADMINISTRATIVE

MATTERS AND TO PROVIDE A RESPONSE IF ONE WERE DETERMINED TO BE NEEDED.

2. ALTHOUGH AGREEMENT WAS NOT REACHED ON GRAIN CARRIAGE RATES FOR 1979, THE SOVIETS OFFERED \$18.00 PER TON. THE U.S. HELD OUT FOR \$18.25, AND THE SOVIETS WERE UNWILLING TO MOVE UP TO THIS FIGURE.

3. AVERIN CONVEYED A TENTATIVE OFFER TO RESOLVE THE OVER-AGE INSURANCE QUESTION BY ACCEPTING AD REFERENDUM A U.S. PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE MARCH 25, 1977 BULK MEMORANDUM. HE TENDED A DRAFT LETTER STATING THAT "ANY ADDITIONAL CARGO INSURANCE REQUIRED DUE TO A VESSEL'S AGE MAY BE PLACED IN THE U.S. INSURANCE MARKET FOR OWNER'S ACCOUNT, NET OF DISCOUNT. IN NO EVENT SHALL THE OWNERS BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY AMOUNTS WHICH EXCEED THOSE ASSESSED IN THE U.S. INSURANCE MARKET." OTHERWISE BULK MEMORANDUM IS UNAF- FECTED. AFTER REFERRING TO RESERVATIONS OF SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS, ESPECIALLY EXPORTKHLEB AND SOVFRACHT, DUE TO FEAR OF HAVING TO SETTLE INSURANCE CLAIMS IN TWO MARKETS (LONDON NND U.S.) AVERIN PROMISED HE WOULD NONE- THELESS MAKE HIS BEST EFFORT TO SECURE SOVIET CONFIRMA- TION OF THIS DRAFT BY AUTUMN. HE HINTED AT POSSIBILITY OF MEETING TO DISCUSS MARINE INSURANCE ISSUE.

4. AVERIN PROPOUNDED IN GENERAL TERMS SOVIET IDEA FOR A CONFIDENTIAL

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MARITIME REVIEW MEETING INVOLVING ALL INTERESTED U.S. AND SOVIET PARTIES. HE COMMENTED THAT TWO SIDES ARE "NEGOTIATING IN THE PRESS" AT PRESENT. BLACKWELL SAID THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO HAVE VERY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FROM THE SOVIET SIDE BEFORE WE COULD UNDERTAKE TO RESPOND TO THIS SUGGESTION. AVERIN UNDERTOOK TO PRODUCE GREATER SPECIFICITY AND TO COMMUNICATE THE PROPOSAL TO BLACKWELL.

5. AVERIN INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO MEET AGAIN WITH BLACKWELL IN SECOND HALF OF OCTOBER. MATLOCK

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